



Newsletter of the Utah State Library for the Blind and Disabled

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**This newsletter is available
in braille, on cassette, or via
email by contacting the
library, or on the Utah State
Library Division website at
<http://blindlibrary.utah.gov>
then click on See Note
Newsletter**

Digital Transition Continues

Nationally about 1.5 million copies of about 3,500 titles of digital books have been shipped to libraries for the blind by the Library of Congress. About 200,000 of the new digital players have been distributed nationwide.

Braille Calendars for 2011 Now Available

Once again the library is providing Braille calendars, compliments of American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults. To request one, please telephone or email the library (blind@utah.gov).

Here in Utah we have about 25,000 copies of nearly 2,000 titles. The library has issued over 4,000 digital players to its patrons. Digital Books now comprise over 30% of the books circulated. This percentage increases as new digital books are received.

Very few, if any, new books will be produced on cassette after January 1, 2011. **The library will continue to circulate cassette books and cassette magazines for several years, so readers are encouraged to keep their cassette player and well as their new digital player.**

Nearly all patrons prefer the new digital cartridges over cassette tapes. If you have not yet enjoyed the new digital player and would like one, please telephone or email the library (blind@utah.gov).

There are two models. The standard player works for most readers. The advanced player has more controls and is intended for nonfiction readers who like to move around within a book, bookmark passages, etc.



Digital Talking Books Plus 2009 Catalog Available

The large print edition of Digital Talking Books Plus 2009 is now available. It includes all adult, young adult, and Spanish language books on cassette and on digital cartridge produced by the Library of Congress during 2009. Titles are grouped by nonfiction subject or type of fiction. The catalog also contains a bestsellers index.

Most of the titles listed are on cassette (RCs); very few are digital book cartridges (DBs). If you have not already received a copy (it is green in color), please telephone or email the library (blind@utah.gov) to request this item.

Teacher/Trainer Program

The Utah Council of the Blind, the Ogden Association of the Blind, the Utah Foundation for Blind Children, and the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired have formed a partnership to provide teams of teacher/trainers to work with people who are blind in their homes.

The teams will be comprised of a blind and a sighted worker, who will be trained to help with such things as marking appliances, beginning braille, computer use, organizing, cooking, safety in the home, finding and accessing community services and much more. The teams will work with people who are losing their sight or who are already blind to teach them skills to help them gain and maintain independence. The service is available to people of all ages.

The sighted member of the team must be willing to drive and usually provide a vehicle to transport himself/herself and the blind co-worker.

Mileage will be reimbursed for the travel. This is a part time position and requires an average of twenty hours a week.

The program is partially funded through AmeriCorps, so the teams are volunteers with a stipend. The stipend allows between \$500 and \$600 per month for the twenty hour per week time commitment. The UCB is looking for people who would like to work on the teams, as well as for people who would like to take advantage of this services provided by the teams.

The program is exciting because people will be able to receive help in their own home, where they are familiar with the surroundings and know exactly what they want to be able to do. They will work with people who are acquainted with their community and know how to best access services there.

The UCB is looking for teams all over the state of Utah. Teams will be able to serve individuals living in their area.

The program will begin in January, 2011 so contact the UCB as soon as possible. Service will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Persons who are interested in either being a teacher/trainer or a recipient of services provided by the teams should call the Utah Council of the Blind at 801-292-1156 or 800-273-4569 or e-mail lgertsch@comcast.net

NLS BARD

Since early Summer the library has been administering this service. BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) is the Library of Congress website used by patrons to download audio files of books.

Over 400 Utah and Wyoming patrons are currently using BARD. About a dozen new patrons apply each month to use BARD. About 2,000 books and over 100 magazines are downloaded each month by Utah and Wyoming patrons.

In order to download audio books from BARD, patrons need the following:

1. An email address.
2. High-speed internet.
3. Ability to navigate the internet, to fill out online forms, to download and manage large files, and to unzip files.
4. A device to store the downloaded books. This can be a cartridge like the ones on loan from the library. These can be purchased from American Printing House for the Blind (800) 223-1839. It can also be a purchased thumb drive that connects to the USB port on the side of the digital player provided by the library or to another device like the Victor Reader Stream.

More information about BARD can be found on the library's website at <http://blindlibrary.utah.gov>

Volunteer Corner

Happy Holidays!

The library wishes you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season.

During the first quarter of the fiscal year, July-September, volunteers donated over 1,600 hours to our program.

Volunteer efforts allow the library to maintain a high standard of service.

We want to say a special thanks to Patrick Bates, who left us after 5 years of service to take on a new job. Thank you, Patrick. We wish you all the best!

Book Narrating and Reviewing

A huge thank you to our dedicated book narrators and reviewers!! Pat yourselves on the back. As of November 8, 2010 you've completed 33 titles for our local book collection. The books you've produced will be transferred onto digital book cartridges and circulated to our

patrons. Currently we have 20 book narrators and 10 editors who volunteer at the State Library. Your efforts have enabled us to expand this wonderful program.

Digital Books

The number of digital audio books we send to, and receive from patrons has greatly increased our circulation. Our book inspectors are digging in to handle the new load, and continue to do a superb job inspecting materials. The inspectors are checking upwards of 500 digital books a day. Thank you for your dedication. Our patrons truly appreciate your good work.

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